

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPORT
2012 Drought Response Task Force
August 24, 2012

Illinois Weather and Crop Conditions

Please refer to attached report.

Hay and Straw Directory

The Department offers a Hay and Straw Directory to help producers locate hay if their pastures have been badly damaged by drought and they lack hay for feeding livestock. There has been a great deal of activity with the directory since mid-July. Many new hay sources have been added and the number of producers accessing the directory to purchase hay has increased significantly. Access to the directory is furnished through the Department's website at www.agr.state.il.us. If producers do not have access to the Internet, they can contact the Bureau of Markets and Promotion at 217/782-4925 for assistance. Use of the hay directory is free of charge.

IDOT Hay Load Authorization

IDOT is assisting livestock producers by permitting the movement of wider than usual hay loads down 2-lane and 4-lane roads under State of Illinois jurisdiction. This authorization will facilitate the transport of hay to areas of need. The authorization extends through December 30, 2012. The notice has been placed on drought.illinois.gov and IDOT plans to do a press release shortly.

Aflatoxin in Corn

The Illinois Department of Agriculture, Grain and Feed Association of Illinois, Illinois Corn Growers Association, Illinois Pork Producers, Illinois Beef Association, Illinois Poultry Council and the Illinois Milk Producers Association are striving jointly in a cooperative effort to raise awareness of the potential aflatoxin problem in corn and the corrective actions needed to ensure a safe supply of corn for production agriculture in the State as well as interstate commerce. One element of that effort includes an IDA guidance document to grain elevators, grain processors and feed mills on the manner in which corn that contains aflatoxin should be handled. The guidance document will be completed and distributed soon.

US Farm Bill Legislation

The Department is currently monitoring Congressional and US Senate action on possible legislation for a short term extension to the current US Farm Bill containing key disaster related provisions that would provide relief to crop and livestock producers affected by the severe drought conditions.

Interagency Coordination

The Department continues to closely coordinate with the USDA Farm Service Agency and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service on their disaster assistance programs. All updates have been uploaded to drought.illinois.gov